

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/932,214

Examiner

Eric Hug

Applicant(s)

SAVELA, JYRKI

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on June 10, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Response to Amendment

The following is in response to the amendment filed June 10, 2003.

Claims 4-17 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 4-12 are allowed, because with respect to claim 7, the prior art does not disclose or suggest a device in connection with a fabric of a paper machine whereby the device comprises a subassembly which guides the fabric by means of a guide roll and an automatic guide having linear guides and a movement base, and whereby the device also comprises another subassembly which spreads and cleans the fabric by means of a curved spreader roll for spreading the fabric and a suction unit for cleaning the fabric, both subassemblies being integrated into one device.

Claims 13-17 are allowed, because with respect to claim 13, the prior art also does not disclose or suggest a device in connection with a fabric of a paper machine whereby the device comprises a suction unit with suction chamber, a suction pipe extending from the suction chamber, two bendable ribs defining a slot therebetween and in communication with the suction chamber, a curved adjustable spreader roll upstream of the slot, a guide roll downstream of the slot, and an automatic guide having linear guides and a movement base.

Prior art devices for guiding and cleaning a paper making fabric do not have all of the features of claim 7 nor all features integrated into one single unit as described by claim 7, nor do prior art devices have all the features in the particular arrangement given by claim 13. Some prior art devices may comprise means for spreading and cleaning the fabric (e.g. Poulsen), or

means for just cleaning the fabric (e.g. Sweet), but utilize guide means provided by the paper machine. Other prior art devices (e.g. Lapeyrouse) use crowned guide rolls for guiding and spreading the fabric and a suction device for cleaning the fabric, however such devices do not provide *inter alia* linear guides and a movement base (and as particularly shown in Figure 1) for mechanical movement of the fabric in operative conjunction with the spreading, guiding and cleaning provided by a spreader roll, a guiding roll, and a suction device.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Application/Control Number: 09/932,214
Art Unit: 1731

Page 4

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 703 308-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703 308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872-9310 for regular communications and 703 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0651.

jeh
June 21, 2003


STEVEN P. GRIFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER